



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

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The United States Embassy in Wellington deeply appreciates New Zealand's further contribution to help those Americans affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

"I want to express our sincere appreciation for the generosity of New Zealanders and their government at this trying time," said Chargé d'Affaires (Acting Ambassador) David Burnett.

"This afternoon I spoke to the Prime Minister to convey personally the gratitude of the United States to the many New Zealanders who have expressed concern or offered assistance.

"In addition to those personal contributions I note that today's contribution of \$NZ 2 million to the Red Cross is a very direct way of making a difference to those whose lives have been shattered by this disaster.

"We also gratefully acknowledge New Zealand's offer of disaster management personnel. We're working with the New Zealand Government and with those on the ground in the United States to establish the most effective way to make use of those staff."